13. Palos Verdes Peninsula and Coastline : A, B, C, D, E, F			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	The Palos Verdes Peninsula is the western-most area of breeding for the endangered California Gnatcatcher. The headlands and rocky shoreline provide wintering habitat for two important birds, the federally endangered brown pelican and the state-endangered peregrine falcon. The canyons of the SEA support three races of birds resident only on the Peninsula and the Channel Islands: insular forms of the orange-crowned warbler, western flycatcher, and Allen's hummingbird. Rare plants, such as Island Mallow that grows abundantly in road- and path-side areas, make this area a very special mainland population for species that otherwise occur only on the offshore islands. Island Green Dudleya, a rare bluff plant known only from Palos Verdes Peninsula, Santa Catalina Island, and San Nicolas Island, occurs in the Portuguese Bend Landslide.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	Unparalleled headlands, rocky shoreline, and the land-sea interface provide for a tremendous variety of biotic resources in the coastline area. Rocky shores support a great number of species, and the upwelling of deep waters provides nutrient-rich waters for the area's kelp beds, dominated by giant kelp. Kelp beds were formerly common off the southern California coast wherever rocks were present at shallow depths. However, due to man-made and natural phenomena, this habitat has been severely diminished in the region. The mainland Peninsula SEA areas contain mainland populations of species that occur chiefly on the offshore Channel Islands. Any population characteristic of an island is of extremely restricted regional distribution.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted	Yes	Kelp beds are now rare in Los Angeles County. These algal communities can account for 90% of the biomass where they occur, providing food and habitat for

	in distribution.		hundreds of species. Like terrestrial forests, they moderate the microclimate, reducing wave shock to shorelines and providing shade and shelter to their myriad denizens. The coastal cliffs support coastal sage and coastal strand vegetation, rare in Los Angeles because of the scarcity of rocky headlands. The Peninsula's former island status and current maintenance of mainland populations of species that occur chiefly on the offshore Channel Islands are very special. Any population characteristic of an island is of extremely restricted distribution in Los Angeles County.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The coastal cliffs provide ideal roosting and feeding sites for numerous shorebirds, gulls, and other seabirds, including the endangered brown pelican. This headland is a principal rest-stop for migrating terrestrial and marine birds on the Pacific Flyway and a wintering area for some migrants. Bluff tops of abandoned agricultural fields are utilized by many species as winter feeding grounds. The Palos Verde Peninsula is the western-most area of breeding for the endangered California Gnatcatcher. It has numerous plant and animal species that only occur here and otherwise on the offshore islands, so this is a special area for all phases of their life cycles.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.	Yes	Much scientific and educational work has been done on this part of the coastline. State and County agencies have generated a great deal of information about the area. The Peninsula was once an island and has biotic characteristics more like the offshore Channel Islands than the rest of Los Angeles County. It is an anomaly of an island now attached to the mainland, and thus interesting for biogeographic studies. The Peninsula canyons are the western-most area of breeding California Gnatcatchers. Because of the resident birds and plants that occur only on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the Channel Islands, this

			area is of scientific interest for study of island biogeography and evolutionary ecology.
F	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.	Yes	As the only extensive (10 miles long) rocky intertidal shoreline in Los Angeles County, the coastline is an important area for preserving its intense biodiversity. It has headlands, rocky shoreline cliffs, rocky intertidal areas, boulder field intertidal areas, kelp beds, coastal strand, ephemeral coastal strand, and coastal sage scrub. The bluffs have a special array of plants found nowhere else on the Los Angeles County mainland. The Peninsula has diverse communities typical of the offshore Channel Islands including coastal sage scrub (which is used by the mainland endangered bird California Gnatcatcher), chaparral, and riparian habitats. The SEA canyons are the least disturbed coastal drainages of Los Angeles County.